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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

PROSPECTUS OF THE DUBLIN INSTITUTION, 1811.

WITHOUT alluding to any scientific or literary association already existing amongst us, to each of which society is indebted for the extension of knowledge, and consequently for improvement in the best qualities of man, it is obviously an object worthy of the most respectable residents in this populous metropolis, not only to increase the facilities of promoting those valuable purposes, but by enlarging the opportunities of information, to multiply the probabilities of calling forth, and of fostering talents, which may hereafter adorn and enlighten our city and our nation.

Useful learning, or that wisdom which flows from the labours and the experience of ages, is not, and ought not to be confined to Academic groves, or to the walks of the learned of whatever profession; it renders even amusements elegant and improving, and it converts into a blessing that leisure which to the vacant mind too often proves a curse: in a more important point of view, it not only assists to discover and combine the means of enlarging the wealth and power of a state, but it gives to agriculture multiplied and varied productions—to manufactures the manifold use of the powers of nature—to commerce the widest intercourse of man with man, indefinite interchange of benefits, and daily augmentation of the public stock; and, above all, it directs benevolence how best to relieve distress, to prevent vice, to promote virtue, and to diffuse happiness.

In a great city like this, men are engaged in almost every pursuit of cultivated society, whether contemplative, or active, or both: and con-

sequently the association and mutual contact of such variety of character, in the prosecution of any intellectual object, must prove materially beneficial, inasmuch as the information, views, and modes of thinking peculiar to each, tend to enlarge useful knowledge, to correct prejudice, and to establish truth.

And farther, the means of knowledge brought home to the bosom of private families, and access to liberal instruction, made easy and frequent, may prove highly favourable to domestic happiness. The ardour of youth, too often wasted in destructive dissipation, may thus be pre-occupied by a taste for improvement; and what is of equal moment, information, operative as well as pleasing, may be more generally acquired by those best associates of the domestic state, to whom the earliest and most important years of life are entrusted, on whose wisdom or folly so much of virtue and happiness depends, and by respectable exertions of some of whom true honour has been conferred on their sex, and lasting benefit on society.

Under these impressions, and to advance these views it has been proposed to establish an institution, in some convenient situation in the city of Dublin, which shall be supplied with a select and extensive library, and with the necessary apparatus for lectures, on the most generally useful subjects of science. It has also been proposed that the use of the books shall not be merely local, but they shall be delivered out, *under terms and regulations*, to be determined upon hereafter; and that every mode shall be adopted to unite, from time to time, all the objects of which the institution may be found capable, in order to render it the most variously and most extensively beneficial.

That the entire property shall belong to the subscribers for two hun-

dred shares of £50. each, of which, no individual shall hold more than four; but that the privileges of the institution may be communicated to such other persons, and on such terms as shall be determined hereafter.

That the shares shall be transferable under regulations to be determined hereafter.

That the intended establishment shall be called the DUBLIN INSTITUTION; and that the entire management shall be vested in a committee of twenty-one members, to be elected annually by and from among the proprietors, and to be appointed as soon as one hundred shares shall be subscribed for, in the manner hereafter to be determined.

The first hundred shares having been subscribed for, the undermentioned Committee have been appointed:

Edward Allen, esq.
John Barrington, esq.
Wm. Beilby, esq.
James Cleghorn, M.D.
Thomas Crosthwait, esq.
Eccles Cuthbert, esq.
Jeremiah D'Olier, esq.
Richard Gamble, M.D.
Arthur Guinness, esq.
Edward Houghton, esq.
Joseph Hone, esq.
Rev. Joseph Hutton.
Wm. Johnson, L.L.D.
Benjamin Kearney, esq.
Thomas Parnell, esq.
John Patten, esq.
Archd. Redfoord, esq.
Paulus Æ. Singer, esq.
Joseph Singer, F.T.C.D.
Rev. James Wilson, F.T.C.D.
Thomas Wilson, esq.

The shares are now nearly filled, and a house is purchased for the use of the institution.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SOME BYE-LAWS OF THE TOWN OF CARRICKFERGUS.

1569.—THE town-clerk to have two shillings and six pence Irish, for every freeman.

1574.—That actions under thirty shillings shall pay only half cost.

1575.—That the mayor may distrain any inhabitant for one shilling every time that the street before such inhabitant's dwelling is not duly swept.

1576, 4th April.—That every one admitted to the freedom, shall pay a dinner to the town, and if he were entered for a whole share, to pay beside £4.—if for one half, £2.—if for one fourth, £1.

—, 10th May.—That all aldermen be cest accordingly, or else disfranchised. That the fees of the sheriffs, town-clerk, and serjeant, shall be set down on record. That no freeman or foreigner be arrested in a freeman's house for debt or trespass, whether the door of the freeman be shut or open.

1593.—That none shall be a free merchant to buy or sell any staple-wares, but the 20 merchants now elected, and all others must either serve three years with a merchant of the staple, or pay a fine to be admitted a stapler, under the staple-seal.

1600, 19th January.—That every alderman in his respective ward shall have three able men provided with some convenient weapons, and have power in their saidwards to commit any offender, to look to the keeping of the streets clean. That no merchant take upon him to receive his share of any town's bargain, under colour to take it to his house, and afterwards sell it to any other free merchant's wife, servant, or factor,